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GENTRIFICATION HAS ACCELERATED IN NYC'S LOWER EAST SIDE SINCE THE CITY FENCED OFF TOMPKIN'S SQUARE PARK IN A PROPERTY WAR AGAINST THE POOR. . .

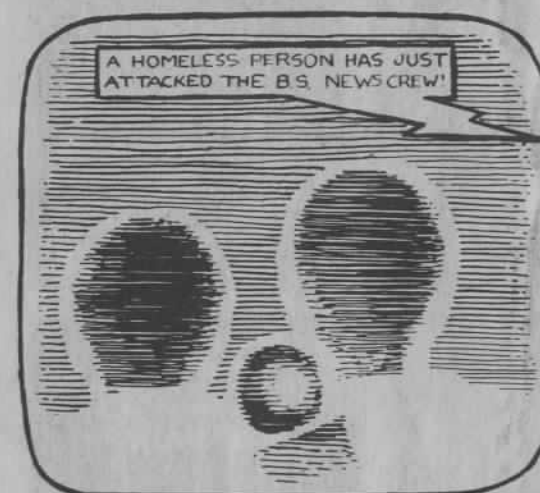
SQUAT NYC

CHAPTER TWO

LAWRENCE VAN ABBEMA 91



SQUAT N.Y.C. chapter one
appeared in Squatter Comix #1



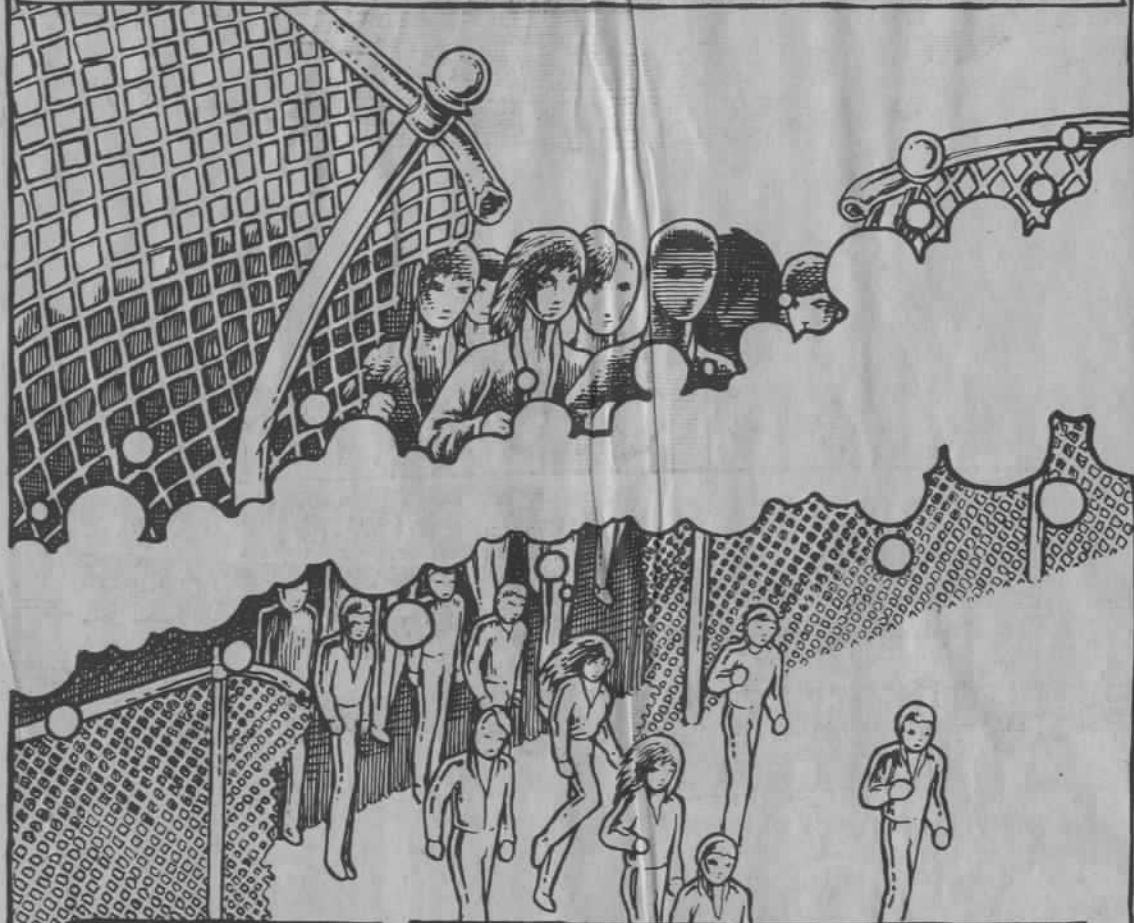


ALL OF A SUDDEN I'M OVERTAKEN BY THIS STRANGE DREAM WHERE ALL THE HOMELESS PEOPLE AND SQUATTERS ARE UNIFIED INTO ONE ARMY AND THE COMMUNITY NO LONGER BELONGS TO THE CITY GOVERNMENT!



WE ARE THE COMMUNITY, AND THE POLICE, THE WATCHDOGS FOR THE CITY AND STATE ARE CRUSHED BY OUR ANGER AND NUMBERS, THIS LAND IS RIGHTFULLY OURS -

THE FENCES IMPRISONING THE PEOPLE ARE TORN DOWN AND THE PRISONS OF GREED ARE DESTROYED!



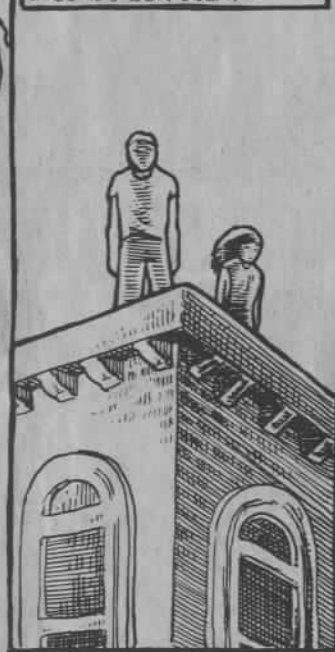
EVERY ABANDONED BUILDING



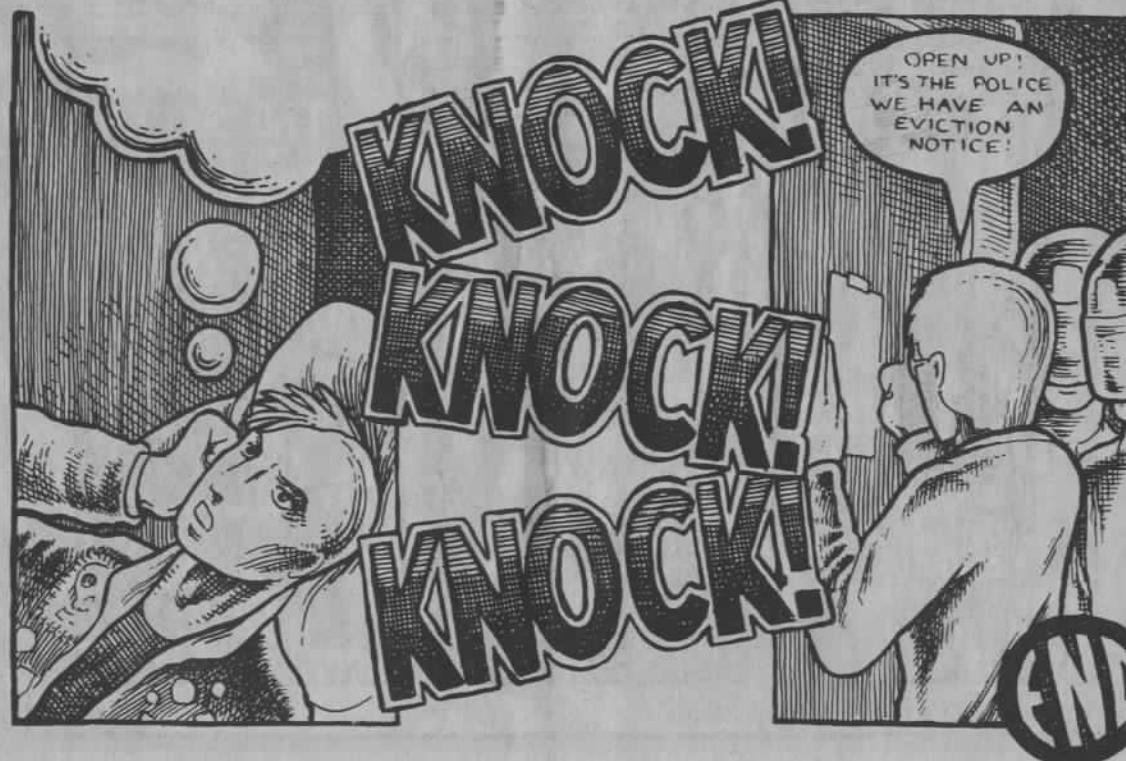
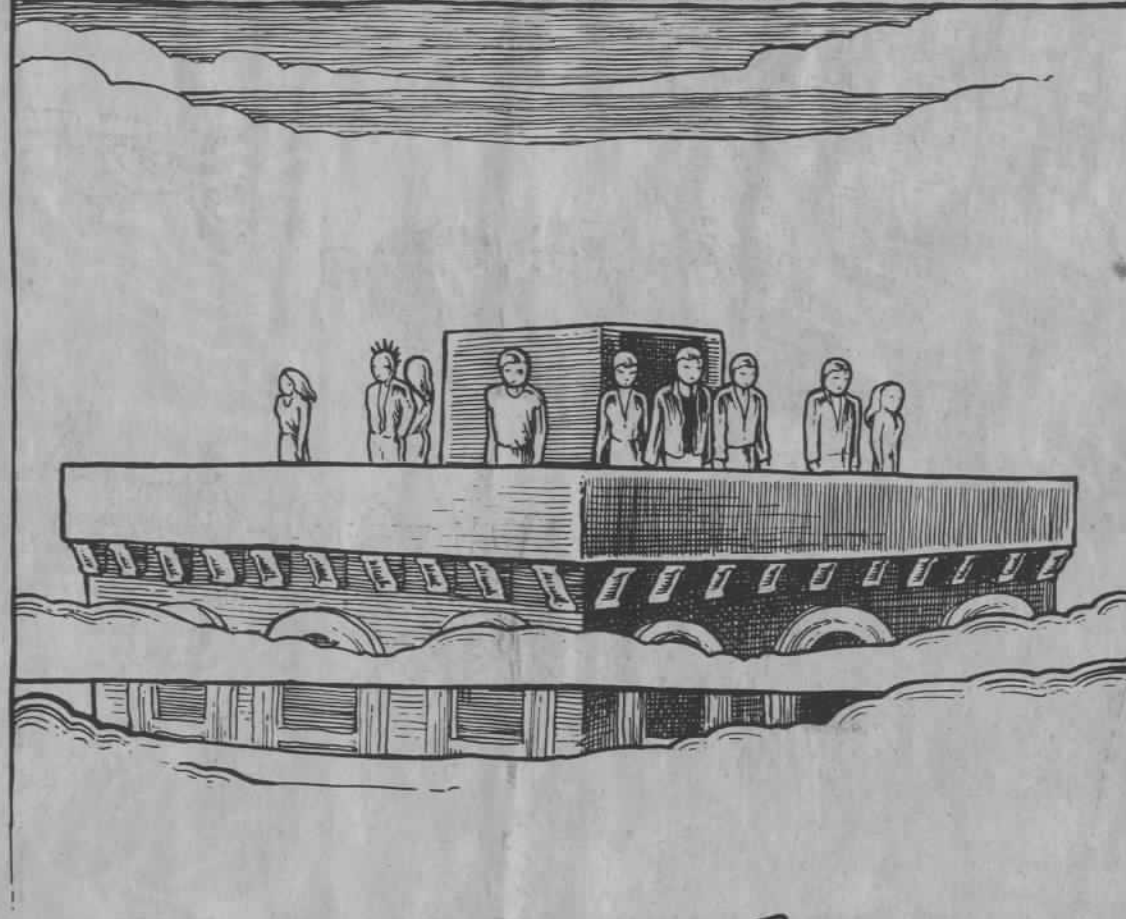
AND WAREHOUSED APARTMENT



BECOMES OUR SQUAT —



PEACE AND BROTHERHOOD ARE RESTORED ON THE LOWER EAST SIDE AND EVERYONE HAS A HOME AND A COMMUNITY THAT WORKS FOR THE PEOPLE INSTEAD OF AN ELITE MINORITY —



AM I IN MY SQUAT DREAMING OF TELEVISION ? OR

IN DOCTRINE NATION
AS I LAY
SLEEPING

WHEN I AWOKE
I HAD THE POWER

I WAS REACHING
A CRITICAL INTAKE
OF VIRTUAL NUTRITION



BUT

ALL I COULD FEEL
WAS A HUNGER THAT
WOULD CONSUME ME

MY FOREHEAD
AT MY THIRD EYE



STARTED TO
BLEED WITH THE
PRESSURE OF
KNOWING SO MUCH
ABOUT
NOTHING

SUDDENLY
A BOY WAS THROWN
INTO MY
ROOM

I JUMPED
ON HIM AND
CONSUMED HIM
RAVENOUSLY

WITH
MY
VAGINA



BRAIN
WASHED
I DREAMED



THERE WAS A
STORM
INSIDE MY HEAD



THE SCREEN WAS
TELLING ME TO



I MARKED MY



TO A
WILD
ANIMAL



I WAS
WILD & BLIND
& STARVING



TORTURED



POISON FOOD
IN STORES NOW
EVERYWHERE



REPORT
EVERYTHING
TO EVERY
ONE TO
ANYONE



FACE
WITH RED
WAR STRIPES
FROM THE BLOOD



& HE SAID

I DON'T
KNOW HOW
TO HELP
YOU!



AROUND ME LAY THE
ROTTEN CORPSES OF ALL
MY BRIGHT IDEAS



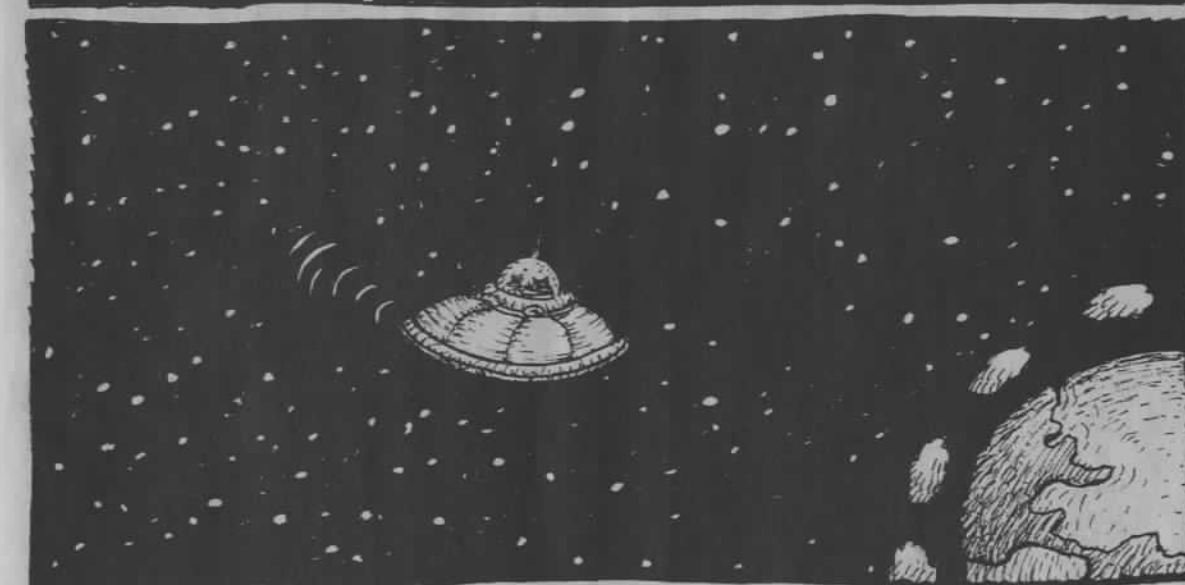
GRUCIFIED



A TELEVISION
SCREEN WAS
FEEDING ME IN
FORMATION LIKE
IT WAS THINKING
FASTER &
FASTER



& RESURRECTED

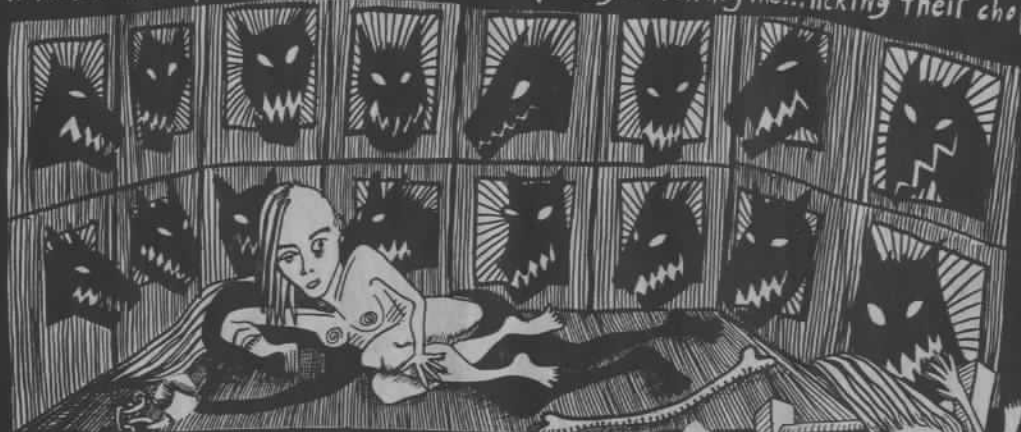




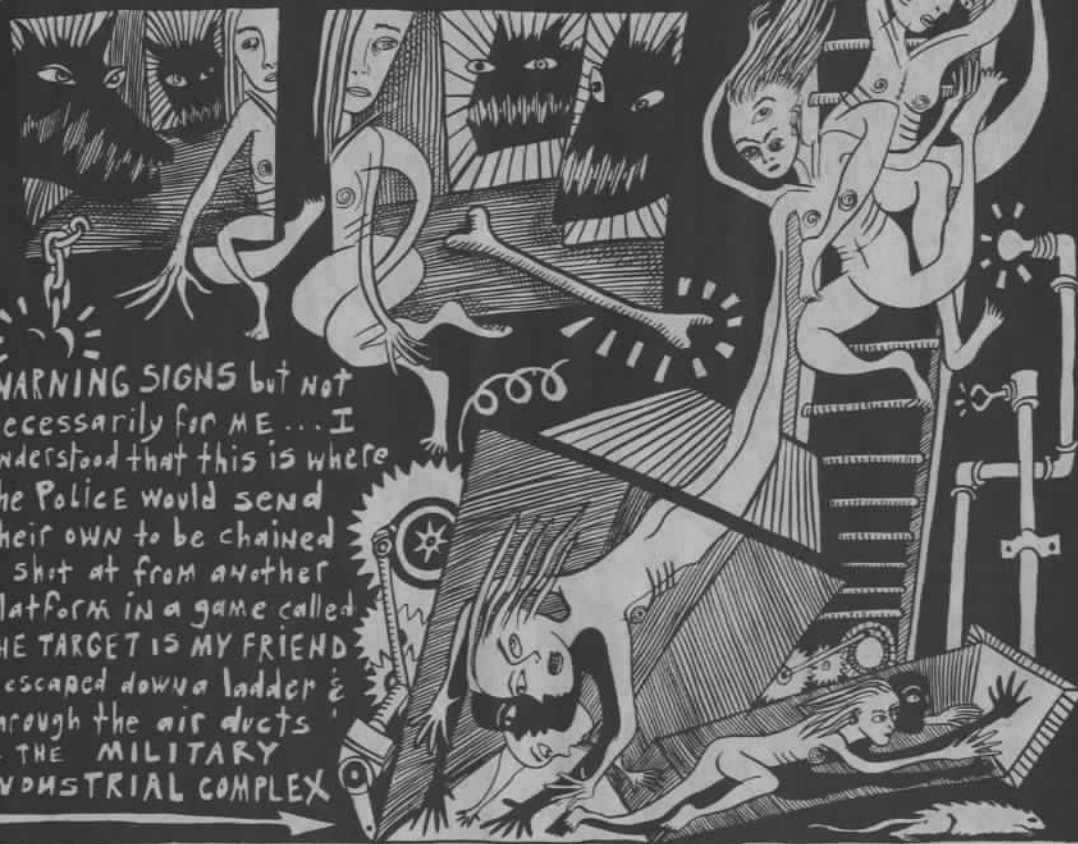
IN DOCTRINE NATION

I Awoke to find my self surrounded by DOGS... I realized that they were Police dogs... I had fallen Asleep in the COP DOG KENNELS... I was lying ON a raised metal platform... the dogs were quietly watching me... licking their chops...

by FLY... © '92



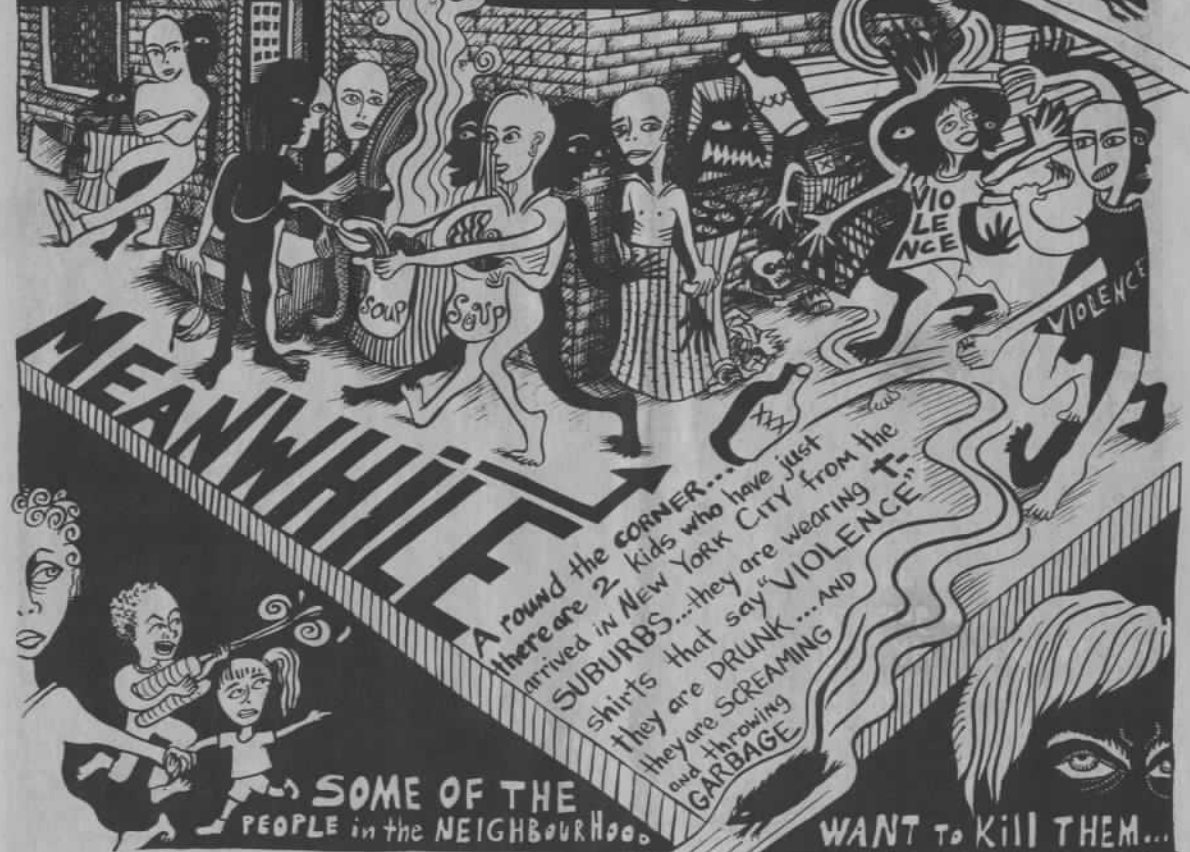
ON the floor beside me were ankle shackles AND A bone licked clean... I understood that these were



WARNING SIGNS but not Necessarily for ME... I understood that this is where the Police would send their own to be chained & shot at from another platform in a game called THE TARGET IS MY FRIEND I escaped down a ladder & through the air ducts of THE MILITARY INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX



When I finally got OUTSIDE I found my self ON the corner of Ave. C & 3rd St... there was a man giving Me a plastic bag full OF SOUP from a garbage CAN



SOME OF THE PEOPLE in the NEIGHBOURHOOD

WANT to Kill THEM...



THROUGH THE LOWEAST SIDE



TO THE ABANDONED BUILDINGS,



LEAVING THEIR MARK ON EACH ONE.



THE PEOPLE, UNITED, WILL NEVER BE DEFEATED! THE PEOPLE...



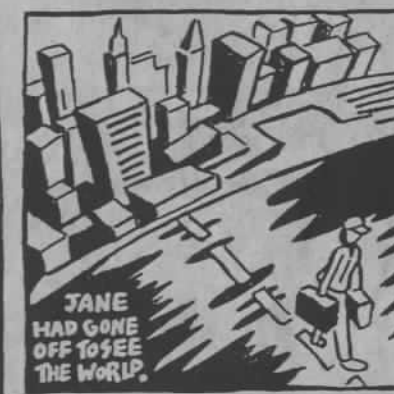
WE CLAIM THESE ABANDONED BUILDINGS IN THE NAME of the PEOPLE of the LOWEAST SIDE! AS THEY WERE ONCE FULL OF LIFE AND OUR PEOPLE, WE SAY THAT OUR PEOPLE WILL MOVE BACK IN AND THESE HOUSES WILL BE FULL OF LIFE ONCE - AGAIN!

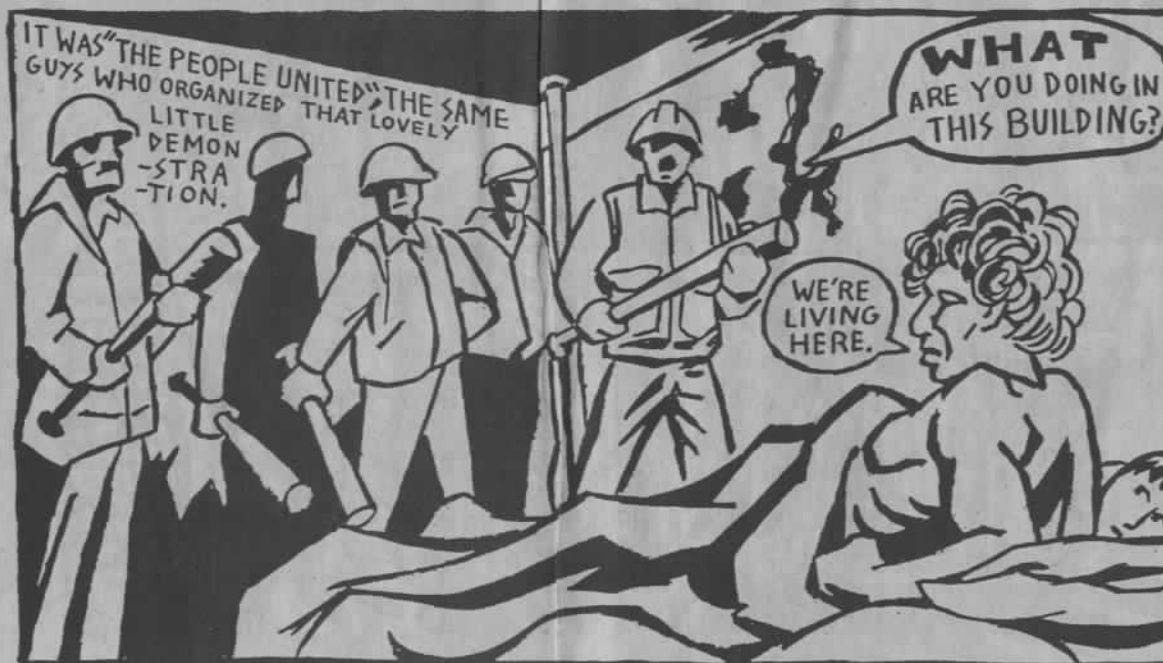
JOHNNY LIVERPOOL, JANE DOE AND THEIR 4 YEAR OLD SON WATCHED IN ADMIRATION.

THIS IS JUST WHAT PEOPLE SHOULD BE DOING!

GLAD WE'RE BACK IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD! I'M SURPRISED PEOPLE ARE DOING THIS IN THE UNITED STATES.

THE PEOPLE UNITED







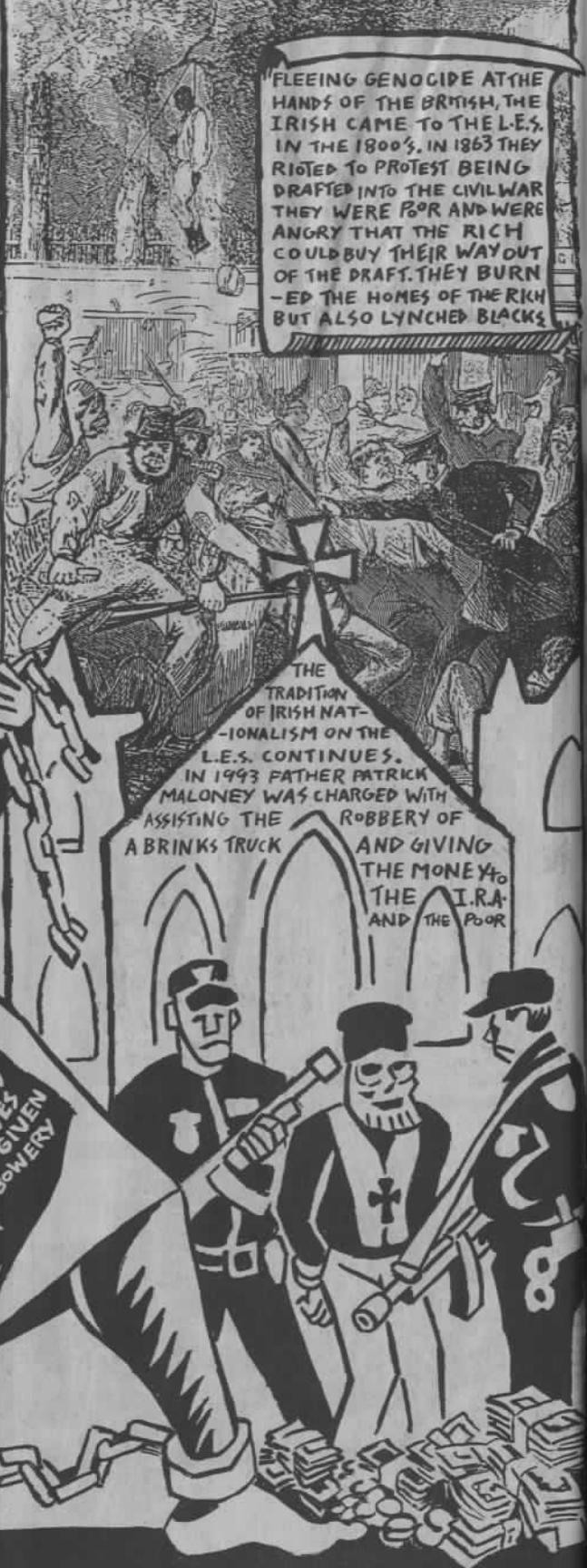
IF AMERIKKAN SOCIETY HAS AN ORIFICE, A MOUTH THROUGH WHICH IT BREATHES, AN ASSHOLE THROUGH WHICH IT SHITS, IT IS THE LOWER EASTSIDE OF MANHATTAN. WHICH ORIFICE IT IS DEPENDS ON WHO YOU ASK AND WHAT THEIR POLITICAL AGENDA IS. LET'S JUST CALL IT THE 'DOOR'. NEW PEOPLE WITH NEW IDEAS HAVE BEEN COMING THROUGH THAT DOOR FOR AS LONG AS THERE WAS A LOWER EAST SIDE. THIS HAS ALWAYS BEEN A CHEAP AND EASY PLACE TO LIVE WHERE POOR PEOPLE COULD MAKE A START PAYING LOW SUBSTANDARD RENTS TO LIVE IN CONDITIONS. IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN A MAGNET FOR SOCIETY'S MAL-CONTENTS.

GIVE ME YOUR TIRED, YOUR POOR, WE'LL KICK YOUR ASS.

THE JOLLY ROGER MAY BE THE FIRST FLAG OF THE L.E.S. THE AREA WAS ORIGINALLY A SWAMP AND A GOOD PLACE TO HIDE BOATS.

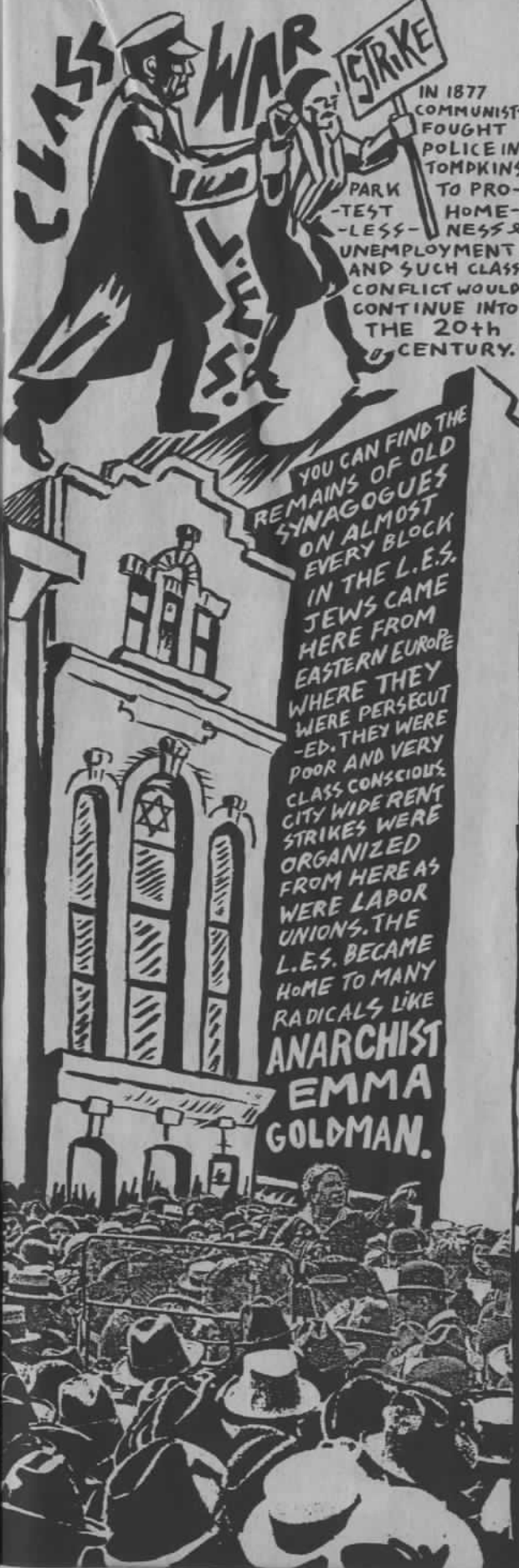
ON THE WATER FRONT RIVER PIRATES WOULD RIP OFF SHIPS COMING INTO NEW YORK HARBOR

MANY OF THE FIRST RESIDENTS OF THE L.E.S. WERE FREED BLACK SLAVES WHO WERE GIVEN LAND ALONG THE BOWERY TO ACT AS A BUFFER AGAINST INDIANS.



FLEEING GENOCIDE AT THE HANDS OF THE BRITISH, THE IRISH CAME TO THE L.E.S. IN THE 1800'S. IN 1863 THEY RIOTED TO PROTEST BEING DRAFTED INTO THE CIVIL WAR THEY WERE POOR AND WERE ANGRY THAT THE RICH COULD BUY THEIR WAY OUT OF THE DRAFT. THEY BURNED THE HOMES OF THE RICH BUT ALSO LYNCHED BLACKS

THE TRADITION OF IRISH NATIONALISM ON THE L.E.S. CONTINUES. IN 1993 FATHER PATRICK MALONEY WAS CHARGED WITH ASSISTING THE ROBBERY OF A BRINKS TRUCK AND GIVING THE MONEY TO THE I.R.A. AND THE POOR



IN 1877 COMMUNISTS FOUGHT POLICE IN TOMPKINS PARK TO PROTEST HOME-LESS-NESS & UNEMPLOYMENT AND SUCH CLASS CONFLICT WOULD CONTINUE INTO THE 20th CENTURY.

YOU CAN FIND THE REMAINS OF OLD SYNAGOGUES ON ALMOST EVERY BLOCK IN THE L.E.S. JEWS CAME HERE FROM EASTERN EUROPE WHERE THEY WERE PERSECUTED. THEY WERE POOR AND VERY CLASS CONSCIOUS. CITY WIDE RENT STRIKES WERE ORGANIZED FROM HERE AS WERE LABOR UNIONS. THE L.E.S. BECAME HOME TO MANY RADICALS LIKE ANARCHIST EMMA GOLDMAN.



PUERTO RICO IS AN OCCUPIED COUNTRY UNDER THE HEEL OF THE U.S.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

FORCE MANY PUERTO RICANS TO MOVE TO THE L.E.S.

4 PUERTO RICANS LIVING IN N.Y.C. SHOT 5 CONGRESSMAN. THE MOVE-MENT FOR THE INDE-PENDENCE OF PUERTO RICO WAS ONE OF THE MOST MILITANT MOVEMENTS IN RECENT U.S. HISTORY. IN THE 1960s THE YOUNG LORDS PARTY (PUERTO RICAN BLACK PANTHERS) FOUGHT POLICE IN THE STREETS OF THE L.E.S. DEMANDING GARBAGE REMOVAL AND OTHER CITY SERVICES FOR THE COMMUNITY AS WELL AS INDEPENDENCE. BUT TODAY C.I.A. REPRESSION OF THE INDEPENDENT-ISTAS HAS BEEN SO VIOLENT THAT MANY PEOPLE HAVE TURNED FROM THE CAUSE OF NATIONAL-ISM.



1967, YOUTH CAME TO THE L.E.S. TO JOIN THE COUNTERCULTURE. ABBIE HOFFMAN DESCRIBES THEM THIS WAY: "LIKE MY GRAND PARENTS BEFORE, THEY WERE FLEEING CULTURAL REPRESSION, SCHOOLS THAT DEMANDED THEY CUT THEIR HAIR, CHURCHES PREACHING FALSE RHETORIC, DRAFTBOARDS ORDERING THEM TO FIGHT IN SENSELESS WARS."

MOST OF THE RUN-ARWAYS WERE NOT THE SPOILED OFFSPRING OF THE NEUVEAU RICHE... BUT POOR RURAL TEENAGERS WHO CAME TO NEW YORK BECAUSE THERE WAS NOTHING DOING IN THEIR HOME TOWNS. THEY WERE UNEDUCATED & STONED, EASY PREY TO SADISTS & PIMPS. ... IN GRASPING FOR A NEW FAMILY STRUCTURE, MANY KIDS WOUND UP WITH SURROGATE PARENTS MORE CRUEL THAN THE ONES POLICE WOULD TAKE UP. ... THEY LEFT HOME... OFTEN GRAB KIDS BY LONG HAIR, THROW THEM AGAINST THE WALL AND START SEARCHING THEM. OUR ORGANIZING EFFORTS REALLY GOT OFF THE GROUND OVER THE ISSUE OF POLICE HARASSMENT."

FROM THE L.E.S. HOFFMAN & THE YIPPIES STAGED AN ATTACK ON THE N.Y. STOCK EXCHANGE.

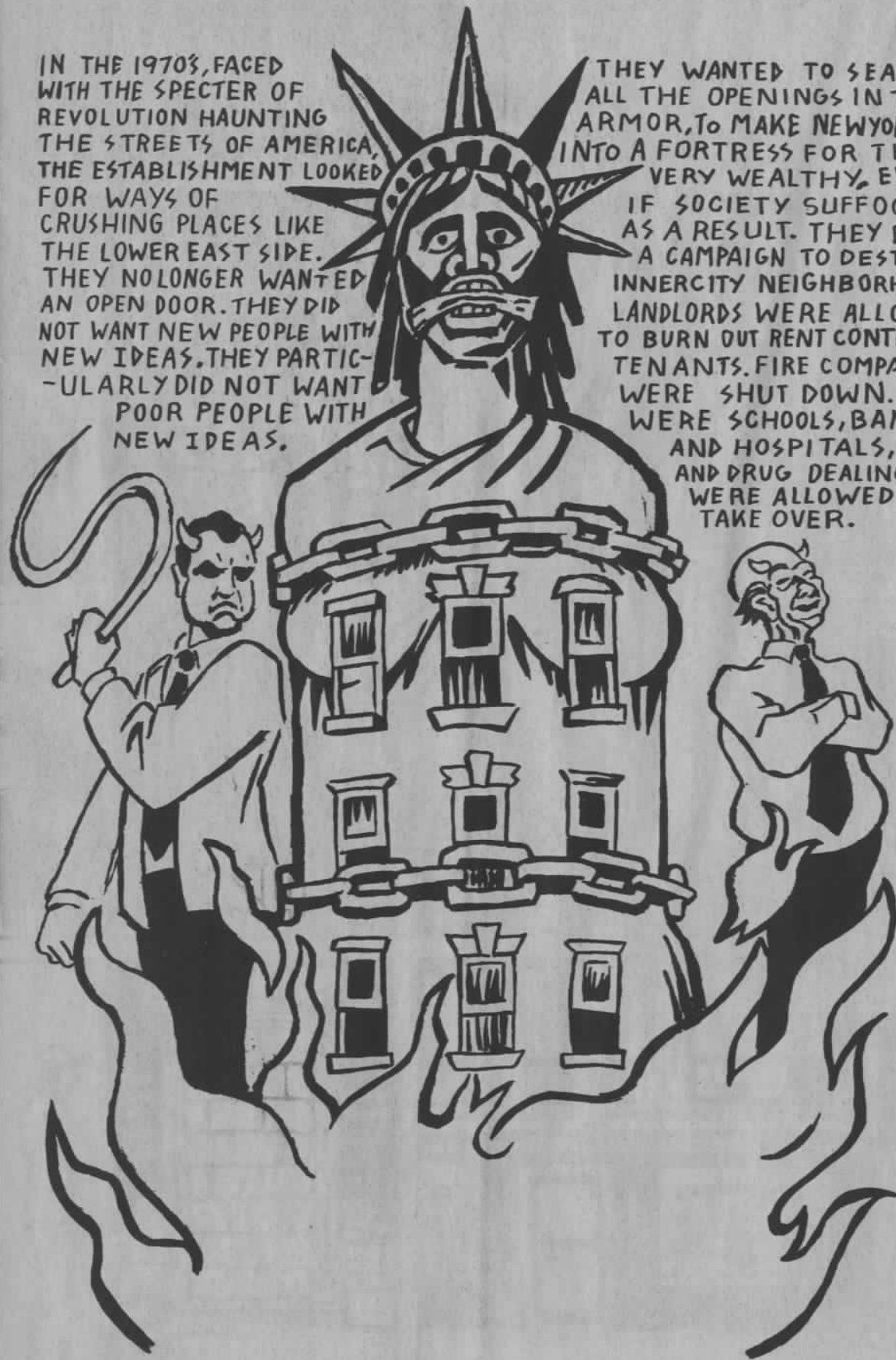
THROWING MONEY DOWN ON THE BROKERS FROM THE BALCONY THEY CAUSED A PANIC. TODAY THAT BALCONY IS COVERED IN BULLETPROOF GLASS.

THE LOWER EAST SIDE WAS A RADICAL BASE, TOO CLOSE TO THE CENTERS OF POWER!



IN THE 1970'S, FACED WITH THE SPECTER OF REVOLUTION HAUNTING THE STREETS OF AMERICA, THE ESTABLISHMENT LOOKED FOR WAYS OF CRUSHING PLACES LIKE THE LOWER EAST SIDE. THEY NO LONGER WANTED AN OPEN DOOR. THEY DID NOT WANT NEW PEOPLE WITH NEW IDEAS. THEY PARTICULARLY DID NOT WANT POOR PEOPLE WITH NEW IDEAS.

THEY WANTED TO SEAL UP ALL THE OPENINGS IN THEIR ARMOR, TO MAKE NEW YORK INTO A FORTRESS FOR THE VERY WEALTHY, EVEN IF SOCIETY SUFFOCATED AS A RESULT. THEY BEGAN A CAMPAIGN TO DESTROY INNERCITY NEIGHBORHOODS. LANDLORDS WERE ALLOWED TO BURN OUT RENT CONTROLLED TENANTS. FIRE COMPANIES WERE SHUT DOWN. AS WERE SCHOOLS, BANKS AND HOSPITALS, CRIME AND DRUG DEALING WERE ALLOWED TO TAKE OVER.



SO WHERE WERE THE NEIGHBORHOOD RADICALS WHILE ALL THIS WENT ON?

WHY WEREN'T THE YUPPIE BARS BURNING THE HAD BEEN BOUGHT OFF. THE CITY MET WITH THE NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING ACTIVISTS AND MADE DEALS, FOREXAMPLE, THEY CAME UP WITH SOMETHING CALLED THE 50-50 CROSS SUBSIDY PLAN, UNDER WHICH ABANDONED PROPERTIES WOULD BE SOLD TO LANDLORDS TO MAKE LUXURY HOUSING. THE MONEY GENERATED BY THE SALE WOULD BE GIVEN TO THE ACTIVISTS TO FIX UP OTHER BUILDINGS TO MAKE SO CALLED "MODERATE INCOME HOUSING" (NOT CHEAP). THUS A SMALL AMOUNT OF HOUSING WAS CREATED, ENOUGH FOR THIER FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS, NOT ENOUGH FOR EVERYONE. HONEST ACTIVISTS WERE AGAINST THE CROSS SUBSIDY PLAN, SAID IT WAS A SELL OUT OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD. THE PEOPLE WERE NOT UNITED!

NO DOUBLE-CROSS SUBSIDY ON THE LOWER EAST SIDE

YES! WE WANT CROSS-SUBSIDY ON THE L.E.S.!

H.P.D. ONLY GAVE US A FEW BUILDINGS.

WE CAN'T HOUSE ALL OF YOU!



SO WITH HALF THE COMMUNITY SUPPORTING ADAM AND HALF ROOTING FOR THE BULLDOZERS...

HOMES NOT GARDENS

THE GARDEN OF EDEN WAS DESTROYED.

AND NOW THESE SAME SOLD OUT ACTIVISTS
WERE TRYING TO TURN THE NEIGHBORHOOD
AGAINST JOHN AND JANE. THEY PORTRAYED THE
SQUATTERS AS WHITE YUPPIE INVADERS. THERE
WAS MUCH RIGHTEOUS ANGER IN THE COMMUNITY
AGAINST MIDDLE CLASS PEOPLE MOVING IN AND
TAKING OVER. BUT "THE PEOPLE UNITED" WERE
NOT BREAKING INTO CONDOMINIUMS AND
THREATENING THE RICH AND FAMOUS
WITH BASEBALL BATS. AT A TIME
WHEN THE ACTIVISTS WERE
NOT REALY FIGHTING
THE SYSTEM, JOHN AND
JANE MADE A PERFECT
SCAPEGOAT.

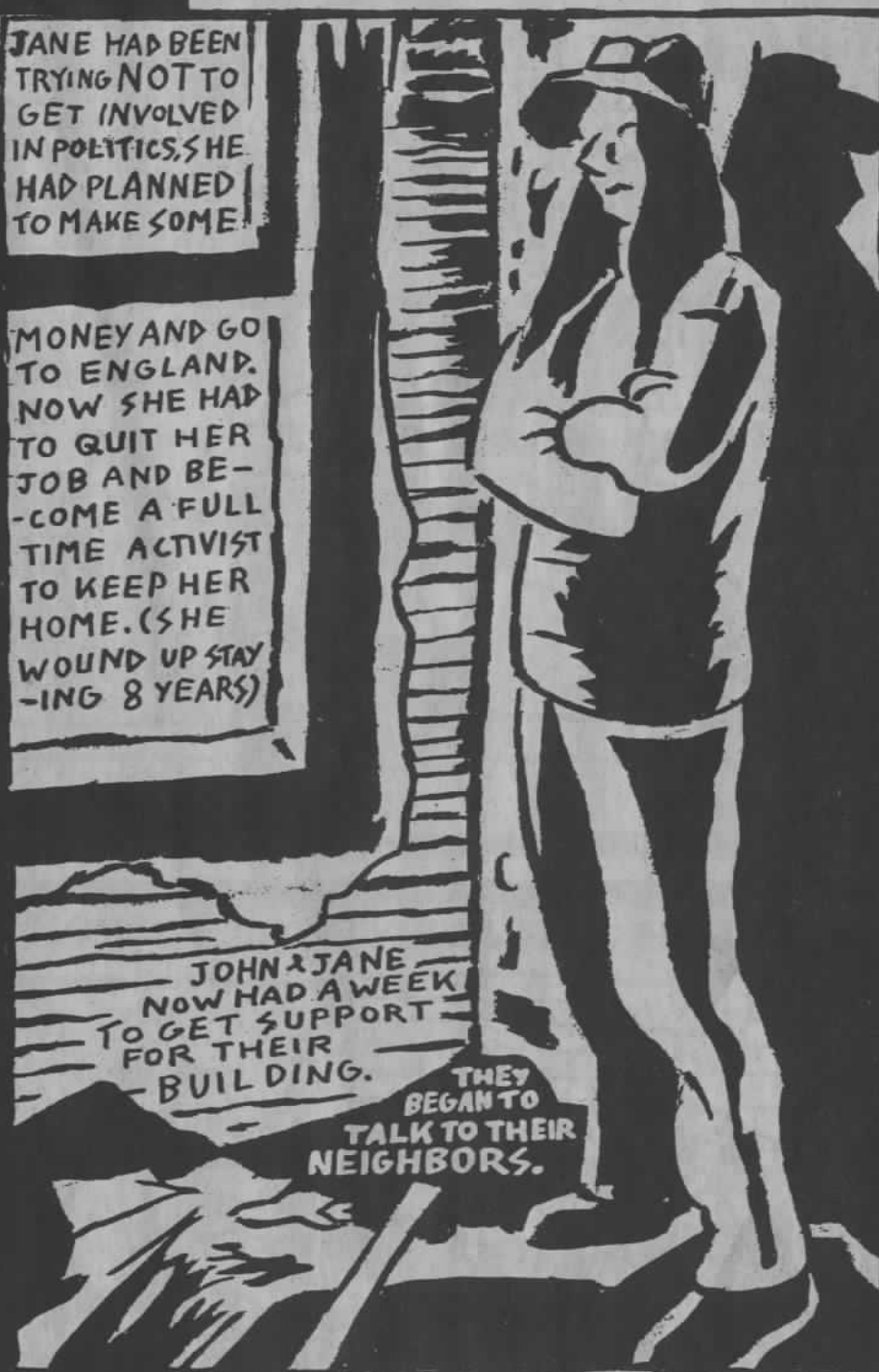


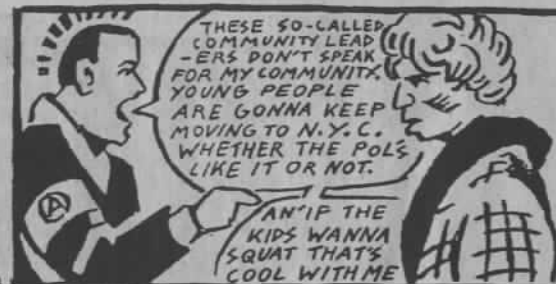
JANE HAD BEEN
TRYING NOT TO
GET INVOLVED
IN POLITICS, SHE
HAD PLANNED
TO MAKE SOME

MONEY AND GO
TO ENGLAND.
NOW SHE HAD
TO QUIT HER
JOB AND BE-
COME A FULL
TIME ACTIVIST
TO KEEP HER
HOME. (SHE
WOUND UP STAY-
ING 8 YEARS)

JOHN & JANE
NOW HAD A WEEK
TO GET SUPPORT
FOR THEIR
BUILDING.

THEY
BEGAN TO
TALK TO THEIR
NEIGHBORS.





THE PEOPLE UNITED
HAD TURNED OUT
TO BE NOTHING
MORE THAN A
PAPER TIGER
THEY WERE
RIGHT ABOUT
ONE THING,
THE COPS
WOULD COME.
BUT THE
SQUATTERS
WOULD HAVE
A GREAT DEAL
OF SUPPORT. A
NEW GENERATION OF
REVOLUTIONARIES
WAS COMING UP,
SICK OF THE LIES OF
THE REAGAN ERA.

THE PEOPLE WERE
LOSING PATIENCE.
THEY HAD NO TIME
FOR THE DEALS AND
50-50 PLANS OF
THE POLITICIANS.
THEY WANTED A
SIMPLE ENEMY
THEY COULD THROW
A BRICK AT. THEY
WOULD TAKE UP
THE BANNER OF
THE SQUATTERS.
SOON THE PEOPLE
WOULD MEET THE
PIGS AND THE
NEIGHBORHOOD
WOULD EXPLODE
ONCE MORE.



THIS IS AN EXCERPT FROM
WAR IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD
A GRAPHIC NOVEL BY SETH TOBOCMAN
SOON TO BE PUBLISHED BY AUTONOMEDIA

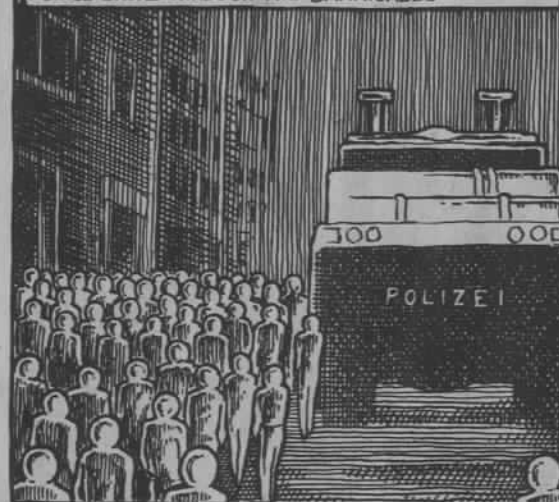
500 SQUATTERS BATTLED RIOT POLICE IN BERLIN
WHEN MAINSERSTRASSE SQUAT WAS EVICTED—



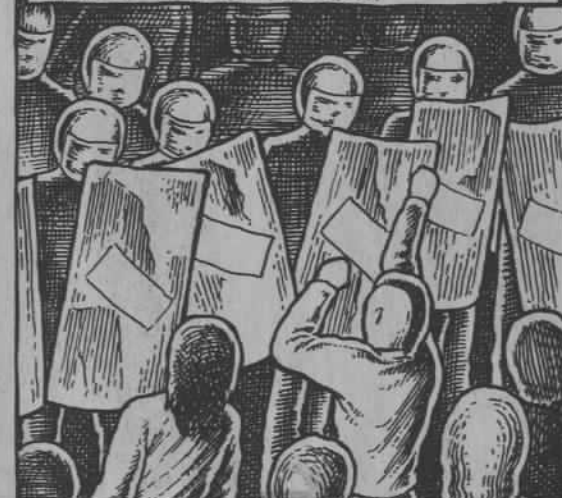
THEY WERE ABLE TO FIGHT THE COPS OFF WITH
MOLOTOV COCKTAILS AND SLINGSHOTS—



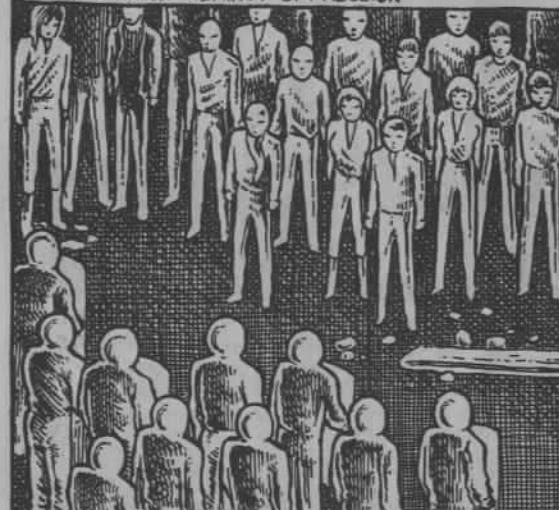
EVENTUALLY THOUSANDS OF FULLY EQUIPPED RIOT
POLICE BROKE THROUGH THE BARRICADES—



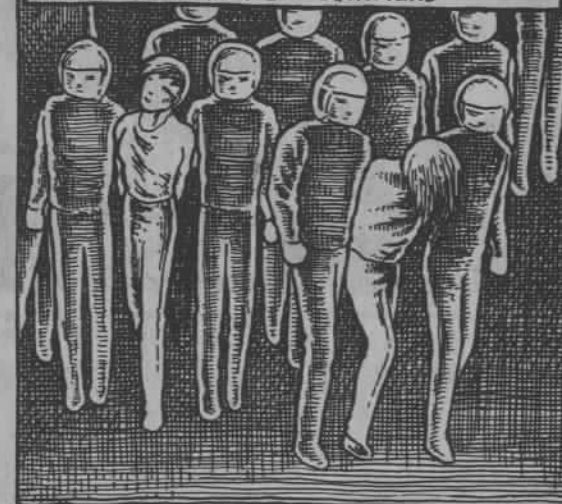
370 PEOPLE WERE ARRESTED IN THE ENSUING
STRUGGLE TO EVICT THE SQUAT—



MAINSERSTRASSE REMAINS A SYMBOL OF THE ABILITY
TO FIGHT BACK AGAINST OPPRESSION—



IN SPITE OF THE OVERWHELMING DEFEAT AND THE
LOSS OF HOMES FOR 200 SQUATTERS—



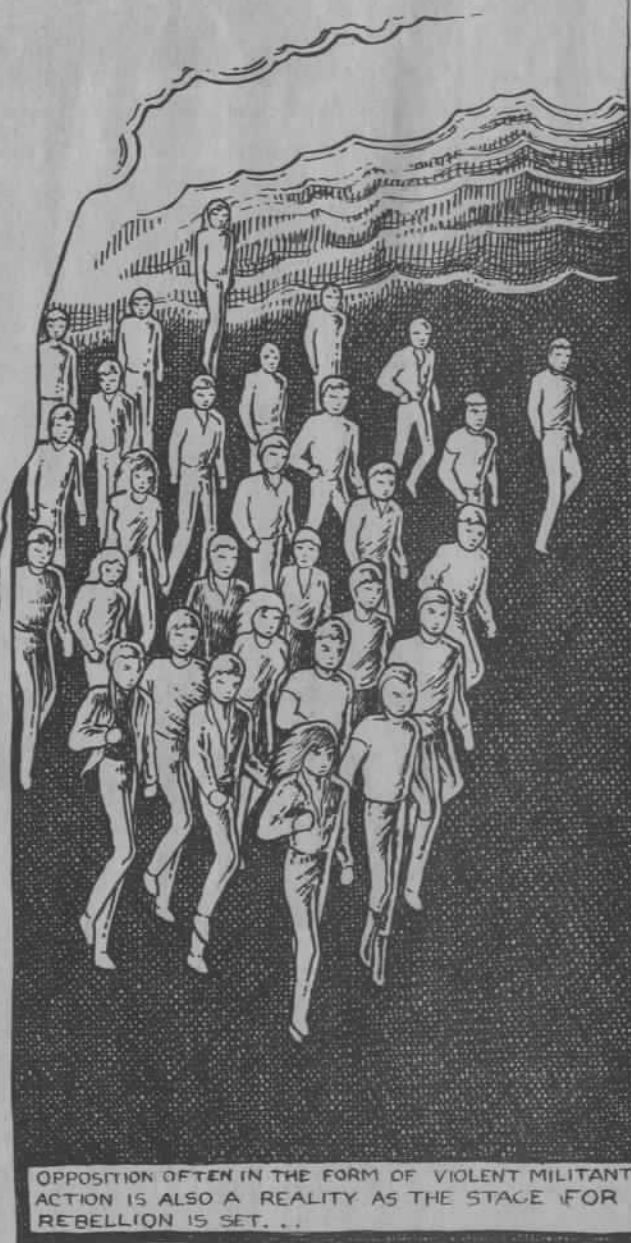
SQUAT NYC.

AND BEYOND

LAWRENCE VAN ABBEMA '91

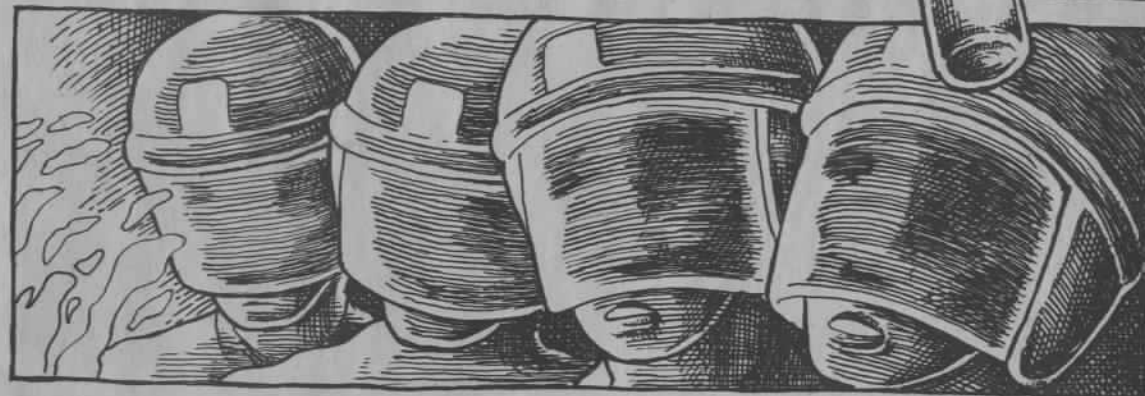
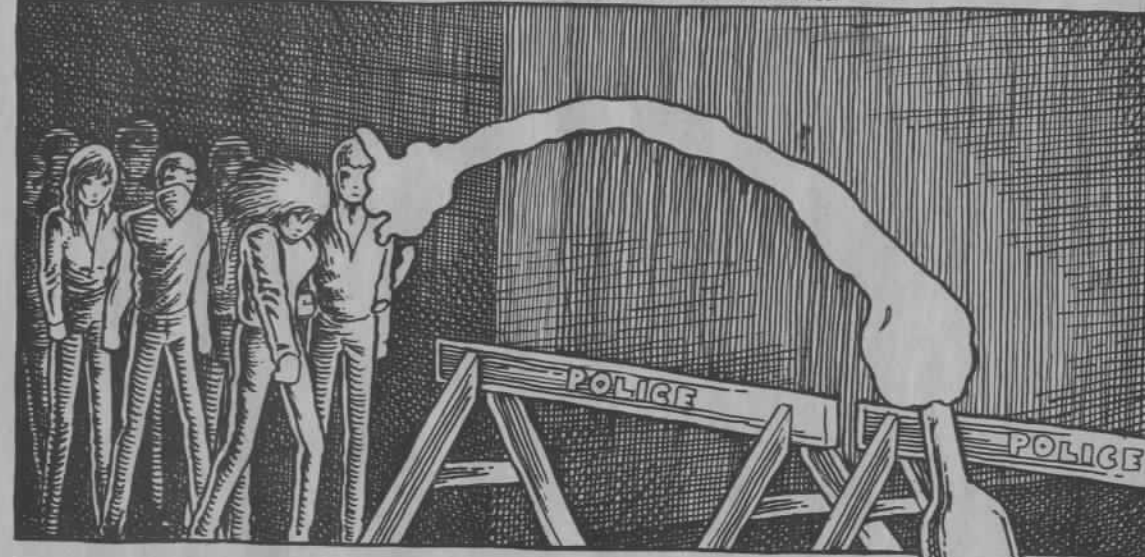


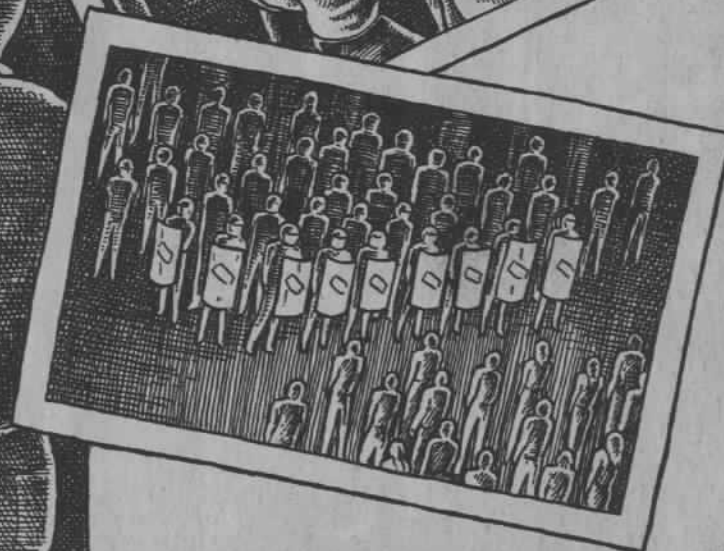
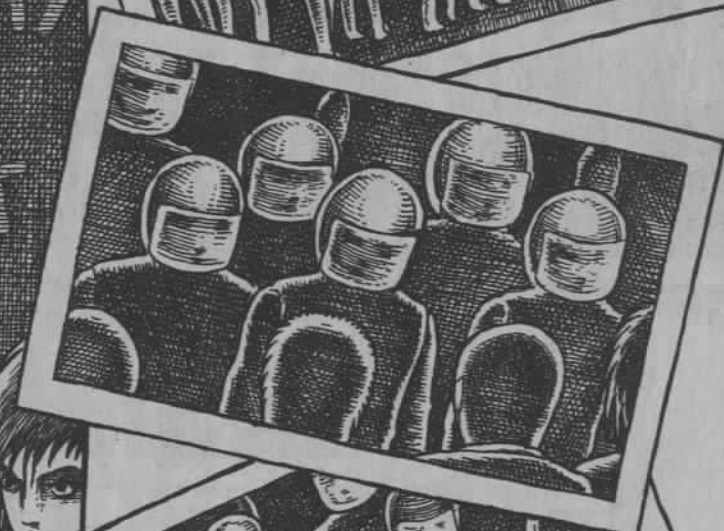
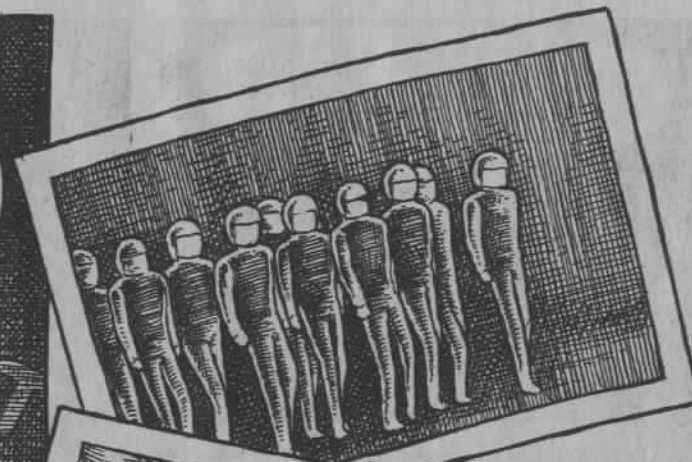
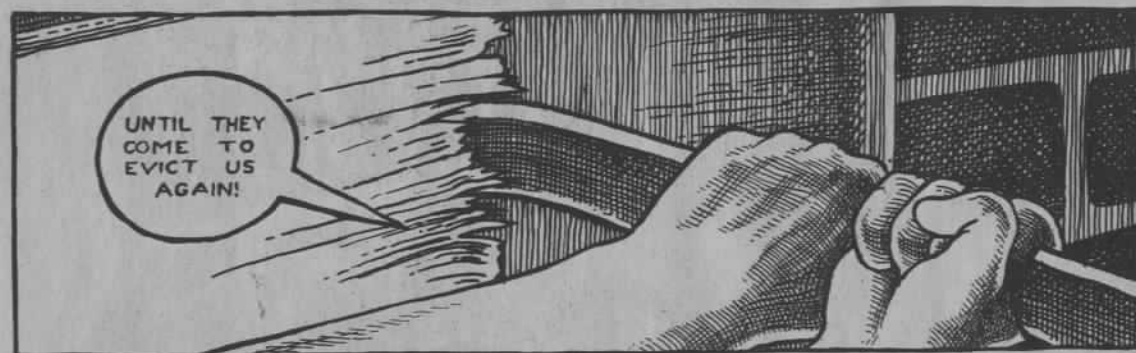
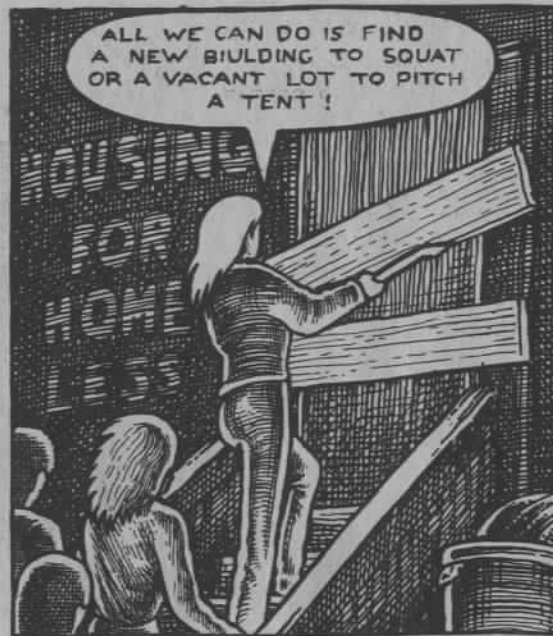
SQUAT EVICTIONS ARE A REALITY IN NEW YORK'S LOWER EAST SIDE AS WELL AS BERLIN

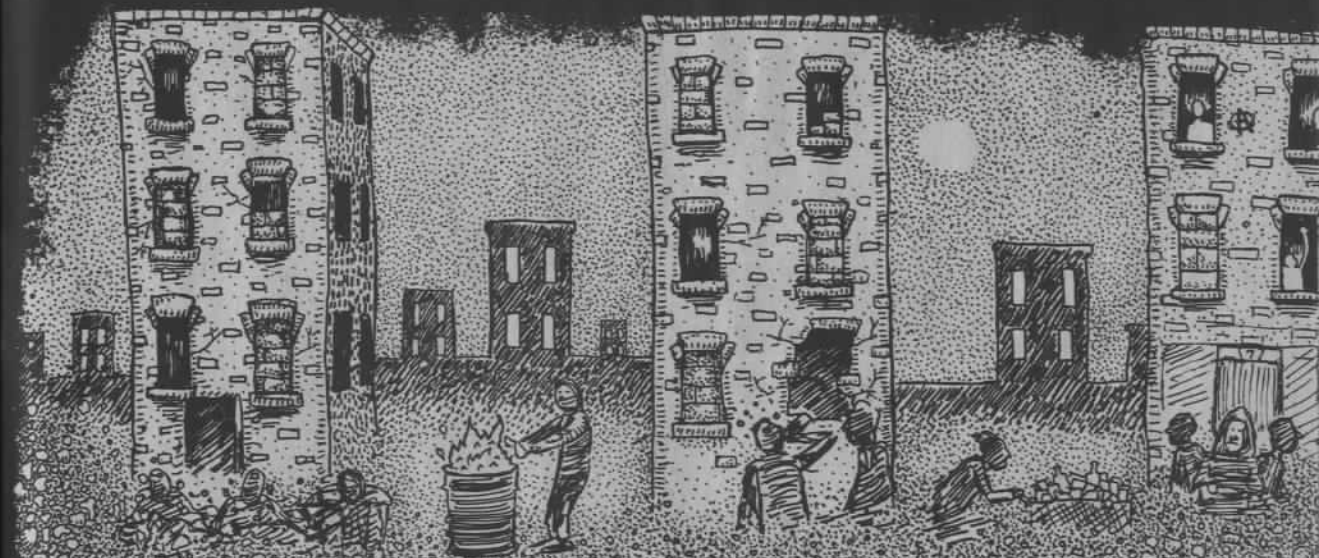


OPPOSITION OFTEN IN THE FORM OF VIOLENT MILITANT ACTION IS ALSO A REALITY AS THE STAGE FOR REBELLION IS SET...

THE SCENE BEGINS WITH A PROTEST AT A SQUAT IN NEW YORK-A CROWD OF PEOPLE ARE ANGRY AND APPROACHING A VIOLENT CONFRONTATION WITH POLICE








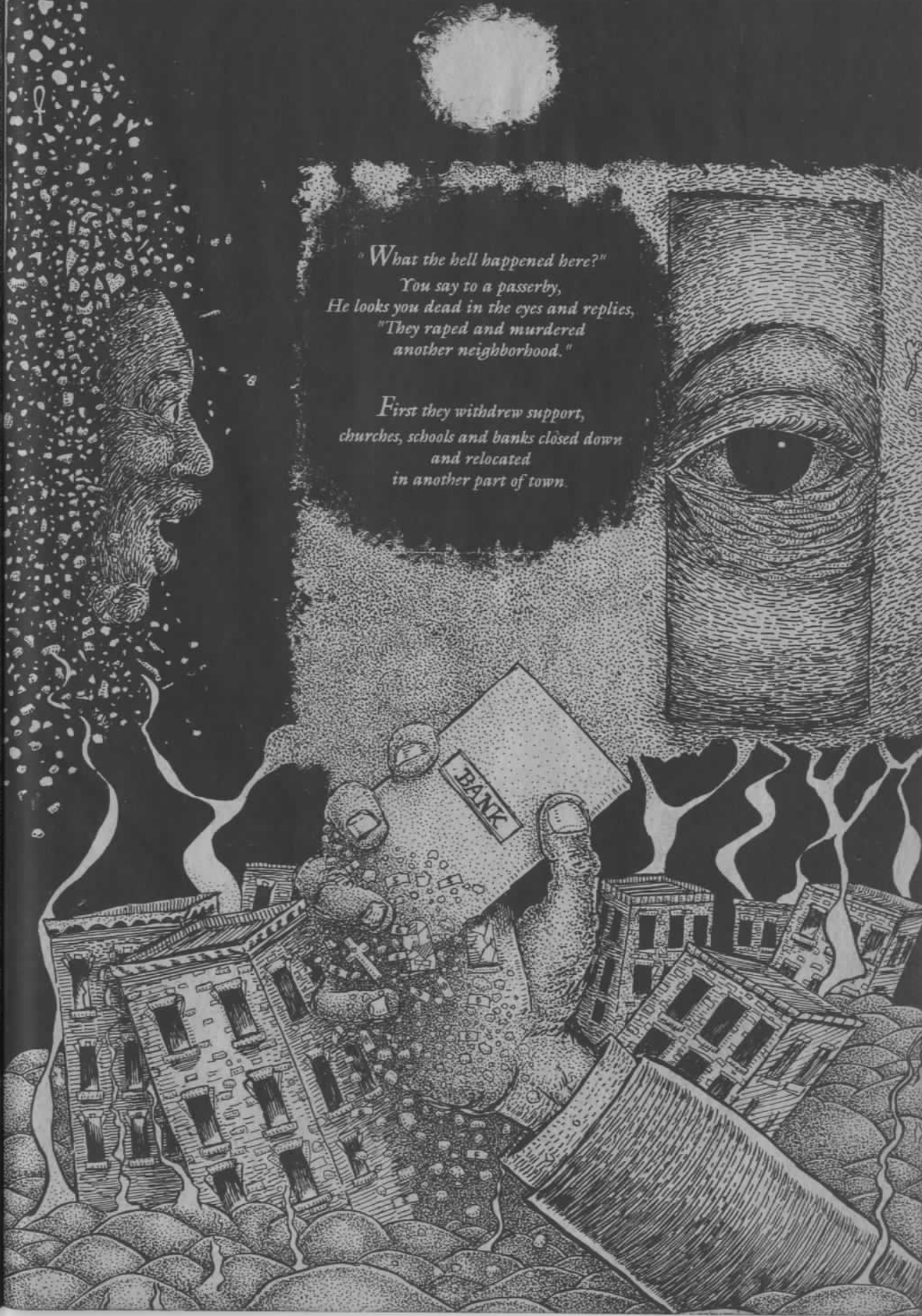
DEATH

OF A NEIGHBORHOOD

BY
WILL SALES
ILLUSTRATED
BY
MAC MCGILL



Scattered through the graveyard
of wasted city blocks,
are the snaggletoothed hollow-eyed shells
of abandoned buildings,
standing like old wounded animals,
waiting to die.



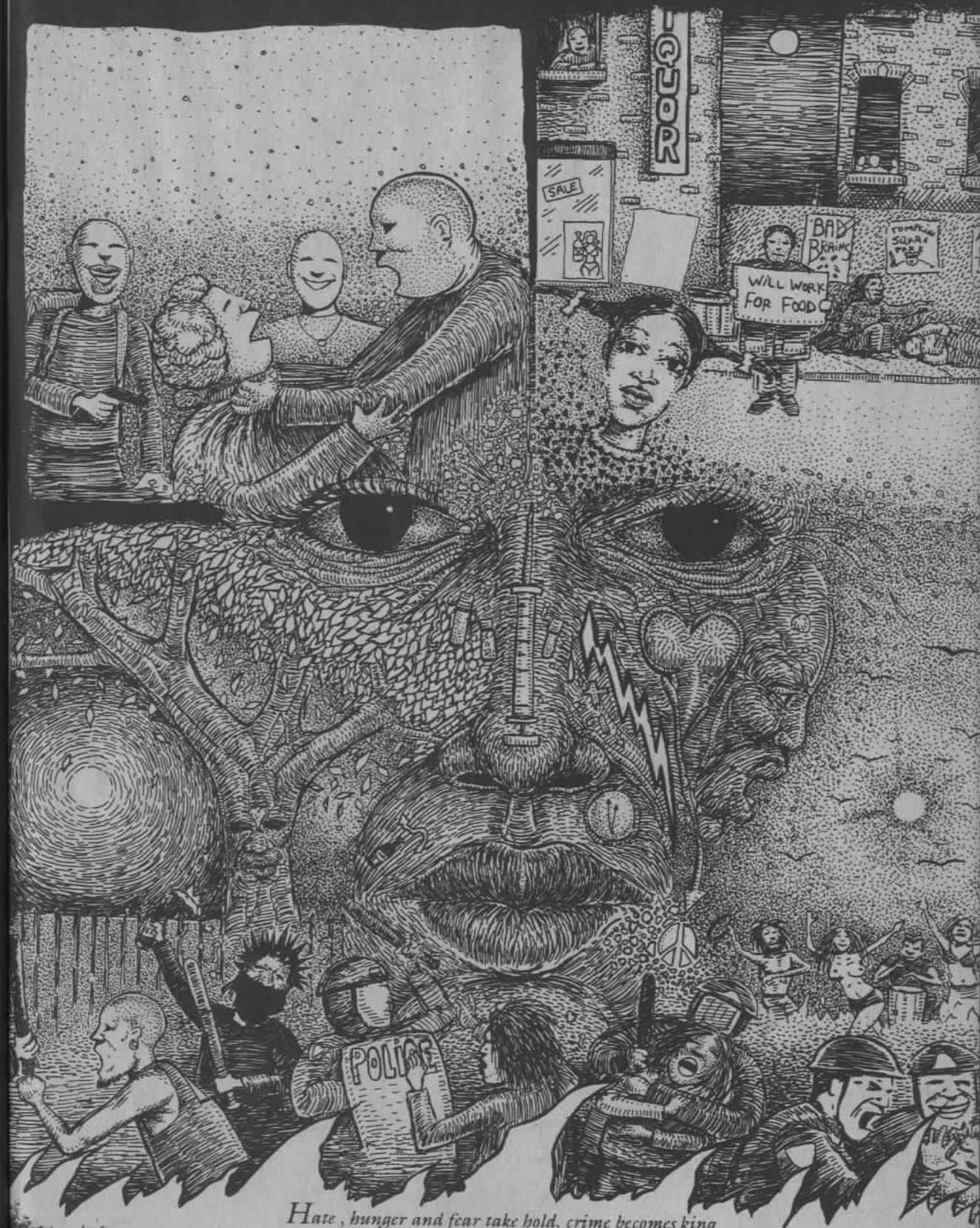
What the hell happened here?"
You say to a passerby,
He looks you dead in the eyes and replies,
"They raped and murdered
another neighborhood."

First they withdrew support,
churches, schools and banks closed down
and relocated
in another part of town.

Landlords strangle their buildings to death

by cutting off gas, electric and heat,

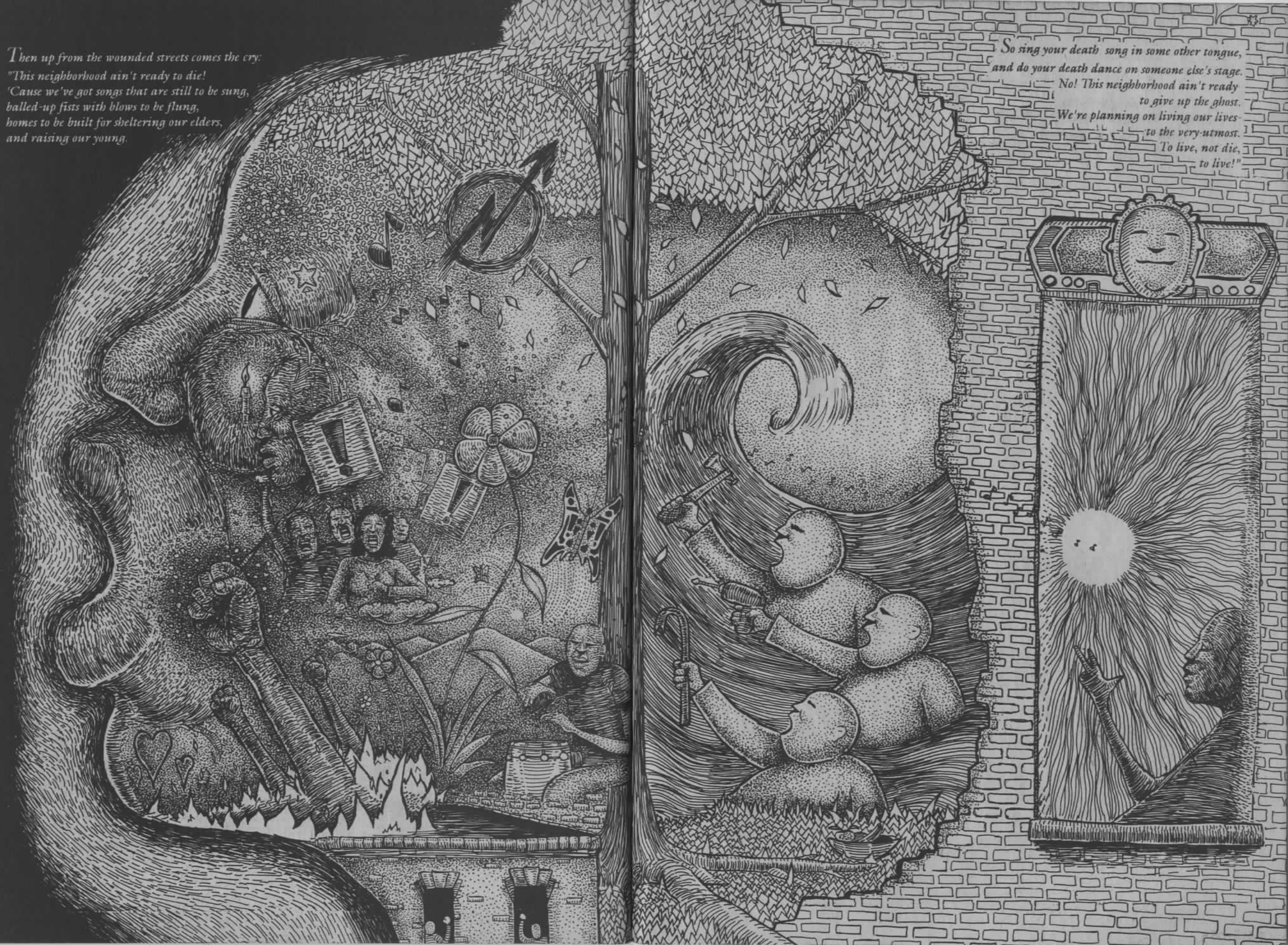
sending the once-happy tenants, into the graveyard streets.



Hate, hunger and fear take hold, crime becomes king
another poor neighborhood shot through the head,
and left for dead!

Then up from the wounded streets comes the cry:
 "This neighborhood ain't ready to die!
 'Cause we've got songs that are still to be sung,
 balled-up fists with blows to be slung,
 homes to be built for sheltering our elders,
 and raising our young.

So sing your death song in some other tongue,
 and do your death dance on someone else's stage.
 No! This neighborhood ain't ready
 to give up the ghost.
 We're planning on living our lives
 to the very utmost.
 To live, not die,
 to live!"





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-THE COMICS JOURNAL February 1994

INTRODUCING ISSUE # 21



THE THREAT

World War 3 Illustrated



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